

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A disk drive comprising:

a head configured to read recorded data from
a disk medium;

5 a read channel configured to reproduce data from
a read signal which is output from the head,

a command unit configured to instruct a copying
operation for allowing the data which is reproduced
by the read channel to be transferred to an external
10 device;

an interface unit configured to effect a data
transfer relative to the external device; and

a control unit configured to, in accordance with
a copying operation instructed by the command unit,
15 perform the copying operation while allowing the
reproduced data to be transferred to the external
device through the interface unit.

2. A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein
the command unit includes a register configured to
20 hold copying operation instructing information.

3. A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein
the command unit includes a register configured to
hold copying operation instructing information and
an input device configured to input the information.

25 4. A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein
the control unit performs a normal read operation for
reading data from the disk medium or a normal write

operation for writing data onto the disk medium and,
when the copying operation is instructed by the
command unit, performs the copying operation in
preference to the normal read operation or write
5 operation.

5. A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein
the command unit includes a register configured to
hold the copying operation instructing information
and, by referring to the register at a predetermined
10 timing, the control unit performs the copying
operation in accordance with the information set by
the register.

6. A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein,
when the copying operation is performed, the control
15 unit issues a command for allowing the reproduced data
to be written into a recording medium in the external
device and transfers the reproduced data to the
external device through the interface unit.

7. A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein,
20 before performing the copying operation, the control
unit makes a data transmit request for the external
device via the interface unit and performs the copying
operation upon receipt of a response to the transmit
request which comes from the external device.

25 8. A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein
the interface unit includes a register configured to
hold the copying operation instructing information and

the register holds the information input from an input unit in the command unit and is accessed from the control unit.

5 9. A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein,
in a copying source disk drive connected to an external interface unit of a host system and connected via an internal interface signal line of the host system to a copying destination disk drive, the interface unit is connected to the external interface
10 unit in accordance with a copying operation by the control unit to transmit the reproduced data to the copying destination drive.

15 10. A method of transferring data read from a disk medium to an external device in a disk drive, the method comprising:

 receiving a copying operation command;
 conducting a communication with the external
device as a copying destination device in accordance with the copying operation command; and
20 transferring data which is read out from the disk medium to the external device when a communication link is established to the external device.

 11. A method according to claim 10, wherein the disk drive has an input unit configured to input
25 the copying operation instructing information and a register configured to hold that information, further comprising when the information is set to the

register, receiving the copying operation command.

12. A method according to claim 10, wherein the
conducting comprises making a transmit request for
the external device, and which further comprises
5 establishing the communication link to the external
device in accordance with a response from the external
device.

13. A method according to claim 10, further
comprising transmitting a command for instructing the
10 writing of the data to a recording medium in the
external device, when the read-out data is transferred
to the external device connected as a copying
destination.

14. A method according to claim 10, wherein the
15 transferring comprises transferring data from the disk
medium to another disk drive as the external device
via an interface unit for connecting with the external
device based on a predetermined interface standard.

15. A method according to claim 14, further
20 comprising, when the data read from the disk medium is
to be transferred in accordance with the copying
operation command, transferring a command for
instructing the writing of the data on a disk medium
included in the copying destination disk drive.